

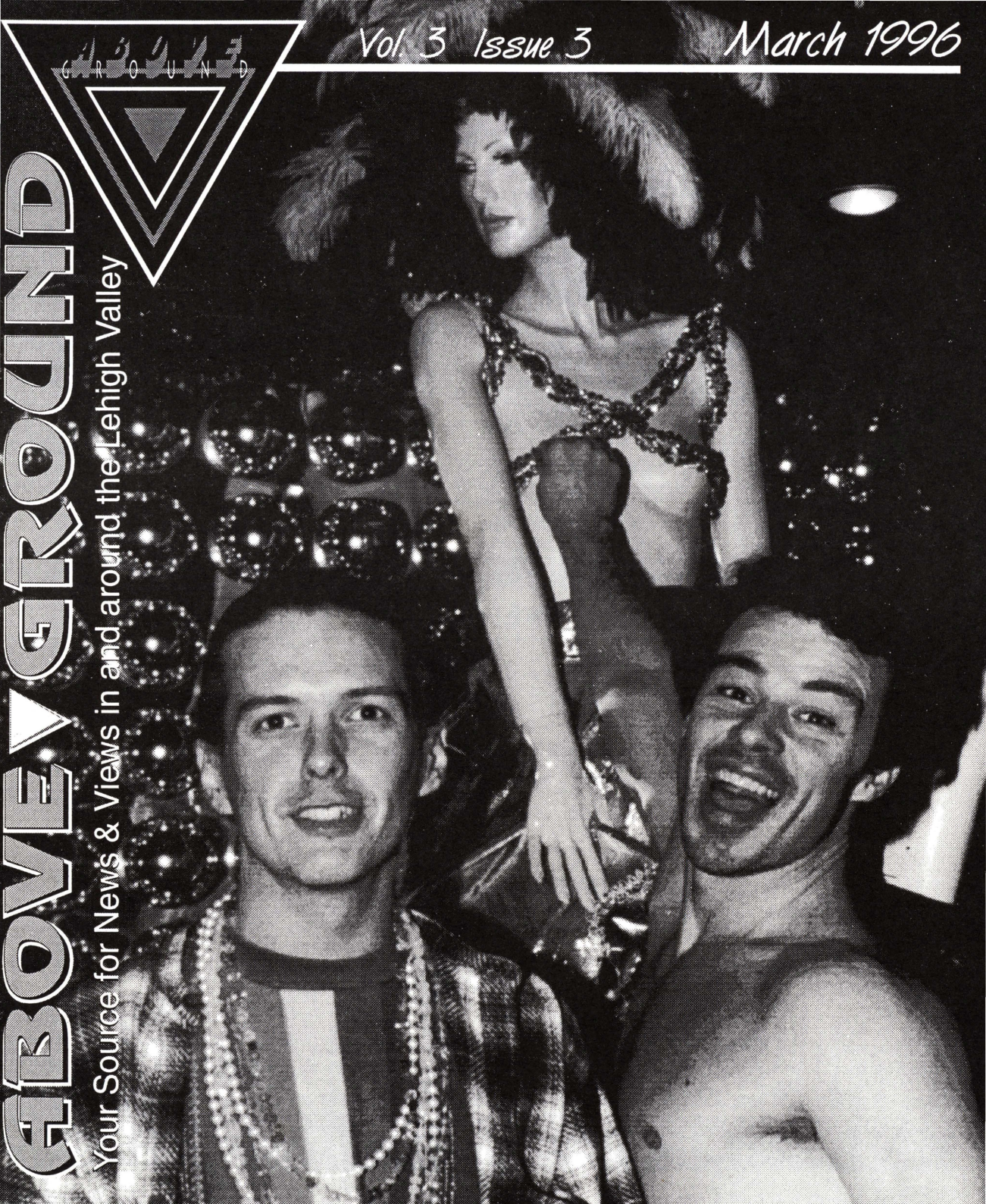
ABOVE ▽ GROUND

Your Source for News & Views in and around the Lehigh Valley

GROUND

Vol. 3 Issue 3

March 1996



Where the Big Boys Play !

Sunday, March 17

St. Patrick's Day Celebration

featuring

• **THE DREAM TEAM** •

-hot male review-

• **Green Beer Special** •

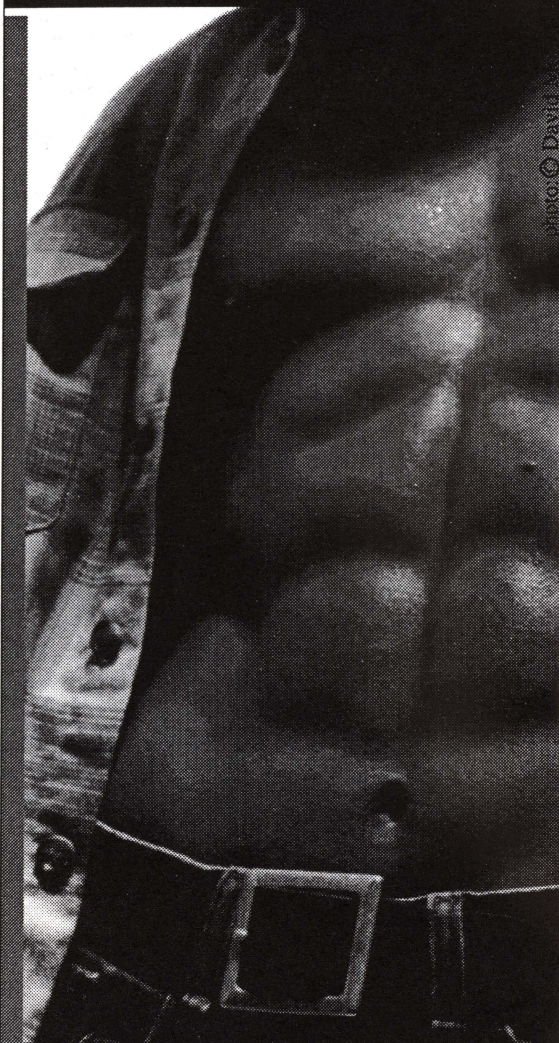
• **Special Happy Hour** •

Friday, March 22

The Annual

BEACH PARTY

Wear beach attire and
receive a drink ticket
with paid admission
to the bar.



STONEWALL

28-30 N. 10th Street Allentown, PA 18101 610-432-0215

Dance



Eat



Play

CONTENTS

A Look Back	4
Coming Events	6
Insights by J. Marish	8
IN print	10
Art openings	11
Feature	12, 14
Music	16
Theatre	18
Ask Aunt Bess	20
Comics	22
Horrorscoops	24
Community Resources	25
Subscriptions	26
Classifieds	27

ABOVEGROUND is published monthly by COBALT BLUE with the release date being the first day of each month. Advertising copy deadline is the 15th day of the month previous to release date.

ABOVEGROUND makes no indication of the sexual orientation of persons, groups, and organizations mentioned in name or shown in photographs throughout its articles, advertisements, columns and listings.

With exception to the Editor Speaks column, all opinions expressed within **ABOVEGROUND** are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of **ABOVEGROUND** or Cobalt Blue.

ABOVEGROUND reserves the right to reject, republish, and edit any written material submitted unless otherwise specified in writing prior to its publication. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form without the written consent of Cobalt Blue.

ABOVEGROUND

PO Box 1656

Allentown, PA 18105-1656

Editor Speaks!

Well, it look's like things are getting pretty scary on the political front. As of this writing, the Republican primaries are giving indications that Right Wing extremist, Pat Buchanan has been gaining ground in his bid for the Presidency. There may have never been a more important election year for the gay and lesbian community, as we could see everything we've worked for fall to the wayside. Once again we have to use our resources, our voices and OUR VOTES in order to further our mission of total equality. The last day to register for the Primary Elections is Monday, March 25. Anyone who needs to register can contact the League of Gay and Lesbian Voters at (610)432-5449 for a registration form and information. Forms will also be available at Diamonz in Bethlehem and Stonewall in Allentown. Make your voice count ... register ... and VOTE!

In this issue we welcome a new columnist, William Benson, to our family. He will be reviewing books of interest to our community, such as new releases, classic reprints and little know gems. You can find the first installment of his column, "IN print," on page 10 of this issue. Welcome Aboard Bill!

On the Cover

Stonewall employees, Roger and Chuck, camp it up at the second annual Mardi Gras party.

ADVERTISER'S INDEX

ATTORNEYS

Steve Black - 9

BARS / NIGHTCLUBS

Candida - 11

Cartwheel - 19

Diamonz - 12, 23

Scarab - 5

Selections - 27

Stonewall - 2

COMPUTER ONLINE

galine, Inc. - 15

COUNSELING / THERAPY

James Fillman, M.A. - 18

Gary C. Goodwin, M.S., M.B.A. - 13

Jacqueline Marish, M.A. - 22

DOCTORS

Family Health - 9

FINANCIAL

American Financial - 7

HAIR & BEAUTY

American Hairlines - 28

MASSAGE THERAPY

Gary - 18

Laurent Michel - 8

PETS

Homer Dodge Farm - 9

PRINTING

Rob-Win Press, Inc. - 21

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATIONS

Hope Ministries - 9

RESTAURANTS & CATERING

Goosey Gander - 9

Monterey - 14

MISC. ORGANIZATIONS

F.A.C.T. - 10

League of Gay

& Lesbian Voters - 21

The businesses who advertise in AboveGround magazine make it possible to bring it to you each month. Just as they support our community and this publication, we urge you to support their businesses and to let them know that you saw their ad here, in AboveGround magazine.

A look Back


Left:

Corrine Michaels wins the crown for the Title of Ms. Diamonz 1996 with Paige Turner (pictured below, right) taking 1st Runner Up.

Below:

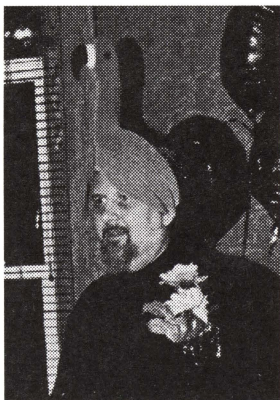
Contestants in the pageant show off their stuff in one of the great production numbers choreographed by Don Horton. All of the "gals" did a great job in putting on an entertaining show.


Right:

Cast of the "Girls of the Lehigh Valley" benefit held at Stonewall on February 18. Between the performer tips and the bar contribution, \$1000 was raised for F.A.C.T. (Fighting AIDS Continuously Together)

Below:

It looks like this guy always has "His Bird on his Mind!" This shot was caught at the Stonewall's Mardi Gras Party.


Right:

Participants at Diamonz first annual Valentines Ball, held on Sunday, February 11, were all "dressed to the nines" while enjoying an elegant dinner and a night of romance.

Far Right:

After the entertainment, the crowd kicked up their heels and danced the night away





Above:

Contestants in the 5th Annual Newlywed Game at Candida, crack up after hearing the answers to the questions posed by Host, Ida Rosenberg. (shown at left) Everyone had a great time watching as the players learned what they didn't know about their partners!



The Scarab

(610) 375-7878

**Fabulous
DRAG!**

Monday
March
11

Your hosts:
Brian (owner)
Keith (manager)

Check Out
our new
Hot Sound
System!!

Mondays:

- Drink Special 10-12
- DJ 10pm-2am

Tuesdays:

- Drink Special 10-12
- Karaoke 10pm-2am

Thursdays:

- Drink Special 10-12
- Oldies Night

Wednesdays:

- Special Happy Hour
- Coupon Night

Fridays and Saturdays:

- Special Happy Hour 8pm - 10pm
- DJ 10pm - 2am



724 Franklin St. Reading, PA

(Free Underground Parking across the street!)

HOURS: Monday through Saturday 8:00 PM - 2:00 AM

Coming Events

DATE	TYPE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
March 2	P/**	1ST ANNIVERSARY PARTY	7 PM	B-TLS
2	L	DAMZELS	9 PM	DIAMONZ
6	ST	HOT MALE STRIPPERS	11 PM	CARTWHEEL
6	D	TINSEL GARLAND	12 AM	STONEWALL
6	MEETING	PRIDE of the Lehigh Valley	7 PM	Grace Cov. Fellowship
9	SP	AFTERNOON POOL TOURNAMENT	12 PM	B-TLS
9	L	MICHAEL OGBORN	10 PM	STONEWALL
9	L	KATE & CJ	9 PM	DIAMONZ
11	D	FABULOUS DRAG	CALL	SCARAB
13	D	TINSEL GARLAND	11PM	CARTWHEEL
13	D	MAXI CARTER	11:30 PM	STONEWALL
15	L	ELAINE PAXSON	10 PM	STONEWALL
16	L	MICHAEL FERRERI	10 PM	STONEWALL
17	ST	THE DREAM TEAM MALE REVIEW	CALL	STONEWALL
17	L	KATO	CALL	CANDIDA
17	P	ST. PATRICK'S DAY Bash of the Century	CALL	DIAMONZ
17	P	ST. PATRICKS DAY PARTY	CALL	STONEWALL
17	P	ST. PATTY'S DAY BLOWOUT	4 PM	CANDIDA
20	D	TINSEL GARLAND	12 AM	STONEWALL
20	ST	HOT MALE STRIPPERS	11 PM	CARTWHEEL
21	***L	Comedienne LINDA HERSKOVIC	9 PM	DIAMONZ
22	P/**	THE ANNUAL BEACH PARTY	CALL	STONEWALL
22	SP/B	Miller Lite SUMO WRESTLING	CALL	B-TLS
23	L	RED LETTER DAY	9 PM	DIAMONZ
23	***F	SUZANNE WESTENHOEFFER	8 PM	Allentown Symph. Hall
23	L	MICHAEL OGBORN	10 PM	STONEWALL
25	P	The Annual Academy Awards Party	8 PM	CANDIDA
27	D	TINSEL GARLAND	11PM	CARTWHEEL
27	D	"LES GIRLS" featuring JODY LYNN	11:30 PM	STONEWALL
31	P	POOL LEAGUE PARTY	4 PM	DIAMONZ

EVENT TYPE CODES

**P - PARTY L - LOUNGE/ LIVE VOCAL ST - STRIP SHOW S - MISC. SHOW SO - SOCIAL EVENT
D - DRAG SHOW F - FUND-RAISER *** - SPECIAL EVENT B - BAR PROMO SP - SPORTS EVENT**

Note: The Coming Events section is provided as a voluntary service to the community. Due to the chance of typographical error, schedule changes, or inadequate source information, we strongly suggest that you use it as a guide, and call the individual organizations for more information and/or confirmation.

SUNDAY

- KARAOKE / DIAMONZ / 9PM-2AM
- KARAOKE / STONEWALL / 10PM-2AM
- ELAINE PAXSON / CARTWHEEL

MONDAY

- ALL AGE NIGHT / STONEWALL / 10PM-2AM
- DRAG SEARCH w/ Monica Rey / CARTWHEEL

TUESDAY

- KARAOKE / DIAMONZ / 9PM
- KARAOKE / SCARAB / 10pm-2am
- GIRLS NIGHT OUT / CARTWHEEL

WEDNESDAY

- COUPON NIGHT / SCARAB
- MOVIE NIGHT / DIAMONZ
- POOL LEAGUE / CANDIDA 8PM

goin' on Weekly

THURSDAY

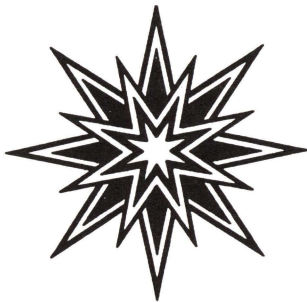
- POOL LEAGUE / DIAMONZ / 8PM
- KARAOKE / DIAMONZ / 9PM-2AM
- OLDIES NIGHT / SCARAB
- KARAOKE / CANDIDA / 10PM-2AM
- CLASSIC DISCO / Cartwheel / 9pm
- Backgammon & Game Night / B-TLS

FRIDAY

- Country-Western/Diamonz/7:30-10:30PM
- DJ Request Night/Diamonz/10:30-2:00
- MICHAEL FERRERI/CARTWHEEL

SATURDAY

- ELAINE PAXSON / CARTWHEEL



American Financial Associates, Inc.

1706 Northampton Street
Easton, PA 18042

- ✳ Personal Investments
- ✳ Life/Disability Insurance
- ✳ Tax Free Investments/Income

- ✳ IRA/Pensions
- ✳ Estate Planning
- ✳ Retirement Planning

Financial Programs For Your Lifestyle

Michael Ronca
Vice President

Call For A Free Consultation

610/559-1600
800/634-9420

INSIGHTS

by Jacqueline Marish, M.A.

To Work Is To Have Passion

Working for each of us is supposed to be something we take for granted as a natural part of life. Do you do work or do you have a job? Did you even know that there is a difference? Work versus a job is as different as having money versus being wealthy. We may have money which may just mean that we have enough income to pay our bills on time and have spending money left. Being wealthy means we have the income that allows us not to worry about whether or not we'll have the money to pay bills; we *know* we have it, we even could pay our regular bills ahead if we chose to (yes, I know this is an absurd idea ... or is it?).

Work is truly to be something we feel passionate about. Work should bring us a sense of pride, joy and satisfaction at the end of the day. Our work needs to reflect who we are; it should be expressing our true self, not the self society tries to dictate to us. Corporate ladders are fine if you like heights; so is flying an airplane ... or a kite. Remember that someone flew a kite and became famous!

We need to be in harmony with the work we do. We need to feel that we found our niche, that what we are doing somehow comes easily and naturally, intuitively. And naturally and intuitively are the key words here. The work we do should flow through us as though someone, something else is doing the work or guiding us to know what and how to do whatever work we're doing.

If naturally and intuitively aren't key words we use to refer to our work then what we've got is a job. A job, like having money versus being wealthy, is something we "do" to earn money. A job is okay but it really doesn't give us pride and joy; it doesn't excite us. A job is labor, we labor at it to earn money. Work takes our concentration, our energy, our focus but we don't labor at it.

If we talk to someone who has passion for their work we sense, see and hear their excitement. They do not "try" to convey excitement, it happens naturally and intuitively when they talk about their work. They don't mind getting up and going to work. These people don't feel put out by having to go to work. They perceive their work as something they are "called" to and that it fits with a higher purpose of life.

So how did they get to do work rather than have a job? What's their secret? Answer: they know who they are and they trust what they know about who they are. Example ... 10 years ago I attended a professional conference because I wanted to hear the keynote speaker. The speaker told us in the course of her presentation that

the only reason she was speaking and not one of us was because she knew who she was. When she made that statement in front of about 300 of us there was not a hint of arrogance or conceit or put-down. This woman was in harmony! I left that conference in an altered state of awareness. I have never been the same. I am now in a state of harmony. I work, willingly and passionately. What's the secret? I took what she said (she was speaking to only counseling and/or religious professionals and said that what she was telling us was something the mass consciousness was not yet ready to hear because she was speaking about a planetary paradigm shift), read, thought, reflected and absorbed intuitively a higher, deeper wisdom of what my life was/is about. I remembered phrases she spoke and I applied them to my philosophy of life. I repeated them often because I knew they were right for me. I trusted what I knew naturally, intuitively. I do my work according to methods and approaches that I know are correct for the client. I follow professional guidelines but accept them as guide lines not rigid rules. Actually, I never followed them as rigid rules but over the past 10 years I have a level of trust that is unshakable. I honor the work I do and I perceive it as sacred. You deserve the same!

Going to work tomorrow ... or to your job?

SPORTS MASSAGE

EFFECTIVE • PROFESSIONAL • THERAPEUTIC

GET THE COMPETITIVE EDGE

Pre-event • Post-event

Relieve Stress and Muscular Pain

Reduce Swelling and Soreness

Increase Range of Motion

Prevents Injuries



Laurent Michel, L.M.T.

Nationally Certified and Licensed

Massage Therapist

Member of the AMTA



521 Linden Street
Allentown, PA 18101

By Appointment
610-433-7889

ADS THAT WORK

As Hard as You Do !

AboveGround

CALL: (610) 821-1321

Homer Dodge Farm



"The Best in Dog and Horse Boarding"



163 STILL VALLEY ROAD
PHILLIPSBURG, NJ 08865
(908) 454-3333

GOOSEY GANDER CATERING & DELI

1017 E. Emmaus Ave. • Salisbury Twp.
Phone: 791-5333 • Fax: 791-5157

DAVID A. SOSKA

- All Occasion Party Trays
- Hot or Cold Buffet Catering
- 101 Varieties of Hoagies & Sandwiches



Steve Black

Attorney

Vice Chair
League of Gay &
Lesbian Voters

1322 Center Street
Bethlehem, PA 18018
610-865-7890

333 S. Camac Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107
215-735-0852

Hope Ministries



Rev. BOB FORTE

610-791-0716

Full Ministerial Services, Specializing in "Family" Concerns
Wedding Ceremonies • Holy Unions • Baptisms • Funeral Services

FAMILY HEALTH



CHIROPRACTIC, J.C. & REHAB

*Quality Chiropractic Care,
By Choice!*

**PWA - HIV
WELCOME**

Dr. John O. Cochran

1874 Catasaqua Road
Valley Plaza
Allentown, PA 18103

phone: 610-264-4949 fax: 610-264-3699

Red Ribbon Ball A Success for the Fourth Year

by R. Sweeney

The fourth annual Red Ribbon Ball, sponsored by AIDS Outreach, was held on Saturday, January 27, 1996 at the Allentown Hilton.

According to Arlene Baron, Fundraising Chairperson, this year's Ball was attended by 100 people and raised over \$17,000 for the agency.

Dana Bensinger, past president of the AIDS Outreach Board of Directors, acted as master of ceremonies for the \$100 per plate dinner. Corporate sponsors of the event were presented plaques by Bensinger; they included Meridian Bank, ATT, The Morning Call, Diamonz, Union Pacific, B.Braun Medical and the Stonewall. Kiwi International donated two airline tickets to anywhere their airline flies as a door prize.

The evening started off with a cocktail hour featuring an open bar, hors d'oeuvres and piano music. After dinner, with choice of prime rib or salmon, attendees were able to dance the night away to the swing sound of The Rob Stonebeck Orchestra. Speeches by the Reverend Jim Wofford, Linda Loubach (current president of the Board of Directors), and Honorary Chairpersons Dr. and Mrs. John Altobelli made the audience, made up largely by members of the professional, business and medical community, mindful of why they were really there. All in all this year's Ball was a very tasteful, elegant and successful affair.

For more information on AIDS Outreach and its fundraising events, contact the agency at 610-435-8424.

BOOK REVIEW In *A Different Light: Visual Culture, Sexual Identity, Queer Practice*, edited by Nayland Blake, Lawrence Rinder, Amy Scholder. San Francisco: City Lights Books, 1995. \$16.95

In A Different Light is a documentation of a very important art exhibit at the University Art Museum in San Francisco in 1995. The book is in four sections: 1. introduction to the art work, 2. a review of seven previous gay or lesbian art exhibits, 3. reproductions of the visual works, and 4. a variety of literary writings.

Curator Nayland Blake's brief introductory essay is refreshing for its lack of academic "artspeak" or critical/ interpretive double-talk. 141 visual art works comprised this exhibit, drawn from 20th-century American artists, and Blake's introduction helps one to view the works by both placing them within a context, as well as avoiding a too dogmatic interpretation.

Nayland stresses that the current crisis of identity that we are experiencing ("gay" or "queer"?; conformity and/or nonconformity both to mainstream society as well as within our same-sex-lovers community) is responsible for the dynamic resonance and relevance of

queer art for us at the present moment. The artists were chosen from several different generations. Nor are all the artists same-sex in their orientation, which reveals just how much "gay" consciousness is truly significant, even within mainstream American culture.

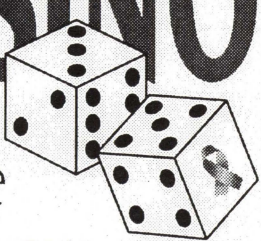
Some of the artists represented will be familiar to those aware of contemporary art—such as Andy Warhol, Robert Mapplethorpe, Keith Haring, and David Hockney—but many are not well-known figures in the art world. Furthermore, the juxtaposition of works made in very different styles and aesthetic sensibilities, and from persons of different generations, allows the viewer/reader to make personal interpretations and discoveries as to what a specific work might mean, and how this might be relevant to one's own personal life.

The art is arranged in nine subsections, beginning with "Void" and "Self" through "Other" and "Couple" to "World" and "Utopia." Given the wide range of material, one finds works that may variously be called playful, ironic, camp, or conceptual. Some of the highlights include J. John Priola's sculpture *Hole*; Donald Moffett's video-still *You, You, You*; and *Tea Set* by Cary S. Leibowitz/Candyass (the tea-pot reads "i can't do that" while the cup-and-saucer reads "i can't do this").

The last section of the book contains 18 literary texts, all which are easy, fun reading. Highlights include John Giorno's recollection of Andy Warhol in the 1960s; Jackie Goldsby's essay on Vanessa Williams; and Jill Johnston's self-document of her own same-sex wedding in Denmark. Some of the "literary" texts are purely visual in content—Tyler Ingolia's two-page collage *Are You "A GAY"?*, a playful and informative critique of labels we impose upon ourselves; David Wojnarowicz's *Rimbaud, 1979*, reinterpreting the 19th century French poet as a 20th century New York boy; and G. B. Jones's *Prison Breakout Series*, recasting the familiar style and content of Tom of Finland's homoerotic fantasies by replacing men with women.


As Nayland Blake writes in the introduction, "It is up to queer artists not to wait around for approval, but to become agents in the development and support of the work that they value." In turn, it is up to us to become more aware of our own same-sex culture. Good art both informs as well as engages one's attention (be it entertaining or disturbing). Art provides us with concrete experiences of both the familiar as well as the unknown. It is perhaps the fear of the unknown that also makes so many people afraid of art. This book clearly shows that "high culture" is not necessarily "above people's heads" but is something with which we can all appreciate and variously identify ourselves. To be sure, some of the work I can relate to on a personal level; other works make me wonder. It is in this spirit of discovery and renewal that *In A Different Light* succeeds.

let's play
CASINO
for a
cause



saturday, march 30th
6:00 to 10:00 pm
at the allentown italian club
823 n. jordan street, allentown, pa

casino = poker, black jack, bingo
cause = FACT (Fighting AIDS Continuously Together)



admission = \$10.00/person, includes \$10,000.00 in FACT play
money, food, entertainment, karaoke, auction, & fun.
for more information, contact chris baldridge at (610) 820-5519.

The official registration and financial information of Fighting AIDS Continuously Together may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-733-4999.

Cobalt
BLUE
DESIGN

**Flyers
Brochures
Newsletters
Business Cards**

610•821•1321

ART SHOWINGS

The Blue Ribbon Gallery

78 Ney Alley
New Hope, PA
(215) 862-3622

Pastels by award winning

DRESSLER SMITH

Featured works of

MICHAEL ISKRA

acrylics - oils - pastels - etchings - nudes

Nostalgia

1101 N. 9th St.
Reading, PA

Exhibition of Watercolors &
Mixed Media Work by
Pennsylvania Artist

IOLSTA HATT

Tuesday, April 16 6 - 8 PM

Featuring a Reading of

Ms. Hatt's Published Poems at 7 pm

Hare Art Studio

241 Northampton St.
Easton, PA
(610) 515-0757

MARCH HARE

TEA PARTY

Celebrating the

Grand Opening

Sat., March 30 4:00PM - 7:00PM

Open Space Gallery

913 Hamilton Mall
Allentown, PA
(610) 432-3091

ALTERS, SHRINES, & TOTEMS

Continuing through March 2

Four Openly Gay Delegates to Attend Democratic Convention

by Steve Black

The Clinton Campaign has selected four openly gay and lesbian delegates from Pennsylvania to attend the Democratic National Convention this summer in Chicago. Three are from Philadelphia and one is from Pittsburgh. All four will appear on the Primary Ballot in their own congressional district. All four are guaranteed to be elected, since the Clinton campaign only certified as many candidates as could win.

The candidates are: Chris Young, Chair of the Pennsylvania League of Gay and Lesbian Voters from Pittsburgh; Paul Acure, owner of the Waldorf Cafe in Philadelphia; Denise Kulp, program director of the Bread and Roses Community Fund in Philadelphia; and Rich Liu, Executive Director of AIDS Services in Asian Communities in Philadelphia.

The four were chosen from 450 people who applied for 127 delegate spots in Pennsylvania. Twenty-nine openly gay and lesbian candidates had applied for delegate across the state, with 24 from Philadelphia. The Liberty City Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club of Philadelphia actively recruited candidates for delegate and lobbied officials from the Clinton Campaign, Mayor Ed Rendell and Philadelphia's three congressmen to chose openly gay and lesbian candidates. All of the officials were receptive to the inclusion of gay men and lesbians in the delegate selection process.

"The Clinton Campaign has sought to include gay men and lesbians in the Democratic Party, confirming the President as the most pro-gay president in history," said Liberty City Co-Chair Andrew Park.

The Pennsylvania Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, April 23, 1996. President Clinton has no opposition in the Democratic Primary.



St. Patty's Day BLOWOUT

Sunday, March 17

• Free Hot Hors d'oeuvres •

• Green Draft Specials •

Music by

KATO

Doors open 4pm - No Cover Charge

MONDAY

PINT NITE

Special pint prices on
the beer of the week!

THURSDAY

KARAOKE

The Valley's Favorite!

Hosted by T. Roth

10pm - 2am

TUESDAY

BUFFALO

WING NITE

20¢ Wings all night!

FRIDAY

TGIF / OLDIES

HAPPY HOUR

Free Hors D'oeuvres

Drink Specials

Oldies Music 6-8pm



Join us for our annual

ACADEMY AWARDS PARTY

Monday, March 25 • 8:00 PM

247 N. Twelfth Street • Allentown, PA • (610)434-3071

DIAMONZ



presents

Gay Comedienne

LINDA HERSKOVIC



Appearing
LIVE

Thursday
March 21
9 PM

Linda has appeared on

"A Girl's Night Out,"

"Stand Up Stand Up"

& HBO's "Real Sex"

TICKETS:

\$5.00 IN ADVANCE

\$7.00 AT THE DOOR

1913 W. BROAD ST. ▼ BETHLEHEM, PA ▼ 610-865-1028

More On The Freedom To Marry

By Liz Bradbury

Three same gender couples have sued to gain the right to marry in Hawaii. Since the Hawaii state constitution guarantees equal rights regardless of gender, the state Supreme Court has charged the state legislature to show compelling reasons why same-gender couples should not be allowed to marry that will stand up to the court's extreme scrutiny.

In 1995 a seven member commission was appointed by the legislature to study the same-gender marriage issue in Hawaii. The commission was charged to discern if same-gender couples were discriminated against because they can not legally marry. The commission will report to the state legislature with it's findings. In a five person majority opinion the commission found 450 ways same gender couples are discriminated against because they can not legally marry. The most important categories include:

1. Spousal and dependent support benefits
2. Health Insurance benefits
3. Other insurance benefits (married people get lower rates on everything)
4. Retirement benefits
5. Workers Compensation benefits
6. Wrongful Death benefits
7. Hawaii homeland surviving spouse benefits
8. Savings in creating the relationship (meaning, if you try to duplicate the rights of married people by using wills, powers of attorney, trusts, deeds, etc., it costs you a great deal more than the straight couple who simply says I do.
9. Income tax benefits
10. Other tax benefits
11. Estate and Transfer tax benefits
12. Transfer of home and capital gains benefits (In this state, as in some others, a spouse can defer the payment of capital gains tax incurred at the death of their spouse until after their own death, but unmarried partners must pay the capital gains immediately upon the death of their lover.)
13. Tenancy by the entirety benefits (the right of the spouse to ownership if there is a legal attachment)

14. Federal benefits

The majority of the commission has recommended to the legislature to adopt same-gender marriage in the interest of equal protection under the state constitution. The minority opinion (written by the two dissenting members of the commission) is very negative toward gays and lesbians and is not at all concerned with the existing guarantees of the Hawaii state constitution. The minority opinion hauls out every old myth and negative stereotype that could possibly and impossibly apply. The opinion is long, almost 3 times as long as the majority opinion and too long to be contained here, but it should be read in order to be forewarned and forearmed against the inevitable backlash.

Some compelling points are brought out in the majority rebuttal. The first is the similarity with the 1967 case Loving v. Virginia . This was the well known case which made interracial marriage legal throughout the United States. At that time most people were against interracial marriage, as most people now are against same-gender marriage. People against interracial marriage and integration 30 years ago used the Bible to confirm their belief that it was immoral and unnatural to mix the races. Clearly the homophobic arguments of bigots today echo the past. The majority points out that what was thought to be immoral by most people 30 years ago is now looked upon, in the most part, as acceptable in today's society and that most people would say today that integration was the right thing to do 30 years ago. The majority states it believes in 30 years, people will look back at the granting of the right to marry to same sex couples as the right thing to do at this time.

The groups opposed to same gender marriage brought representatives of various anti-gay religions to condemn this possible change in the law. However the many religions which support same gender marriage were also represented at the hearings. Buddhism, the second largest religion in Hawaii believes, simply, that two people who love each other should have the right to marry. The Majority points out that laws and rights in the United States are not based on one religious point of view and that even if the right to marry is granted each religion would have the right to accept or deny it as a part of their own doctrine.

What does it all mean? Some time at the end of this year, Hawaii

will most probably grant the right to marry to same gender couples. Since the US Constitution requires marriage in one state be recognized by all states...well.. fasten your seat belts, dig in for the back-lash and get your gay-friendly group to sign on to the Lambda Marriage Project . In the mean time...start adding up those frequent flyer miles, learn the hula, and register your silver pattern.

If you are on-line read the State of Hawaii Report of the Commission on Sexual Orientation and the Law. <http://www.Hawaii.gov/lrb/solcvr.html>. You can even get it over the internet at the Allentown Library.

Liz Bradbury is coordinator of Lehigh Valley Chapter of The League of Gay and Lesbian Voters. If you'd like to know more about Freedom to Marriage or the Pa. League of Gay and Lesbian Voters, call the League at 432-5449.

OFFICE HOURS BY APPOINTMENT

PHONE: (610) 253-5710



GARY C. GOODWIN, M.S., M.B.A.
LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST

COUNSELING AND CONSULTATION

331 CATTELL STREET
EASTON, PA 18042

On Sunday, March 17, Allentown will see a first in its Saint Patrick's Day Parade. Diamonz bar in Bethlehem, will be participating in the day's events with their own float. The parade is actually not a city sponsored event, but rather the work of the Hogans, a largely Irish/Catholic organization. For years, New York City's St. Patrick's Day parade has gained national attention for their successful exclusion of gays and lesbians in their parade. Here in Allentown, the parade organizers actually called Diamonz and asked if they would like to have a float in their parade. Lenora, Diamonz owner, remarked that they had thought about going in the Allentown and Bethlehem Halloween parades, but later decided not to. As a result, their name was on a list that was made available to The St. Patrick's Day Parade organizers. They contacted her at the club before Christmas and asked if the bar would like to participate. When asked if the organizers were aware of what type of bar it was, Lenora commented that they never asked, but that they must be aware of it, at least by now. She also added that she had thought as time went by she would probably see a change in the attitudes of the event organizers but, in fact, her continued contact with them demonstrated only friendly, professional treatment.

The Diamonz float will be following the theme of the parade, "Luck of the Irish," and their displays will revolve around things such as castles, the Blarney Stone and a pot of gold. Both employees and customers will man the float doing Irish jigs and singing Irish tunes. When asked if the float would show an outright sign of being "gay," Lenora commented that the Diamonz name and rainbow will be present, but otherwise it will follow the parade's theme. She also noted that she feels it important for people to see that gay and lesbian people are not any different than the general population; that they are not as outrageous and obnoxious as the media often portrays in their coverage.

The parade will start at 1:00 PM at the Allentown Fairgrounds following its route past the judging stand at 5th & Hamilton Streets. We at AboveGround are encouraged to see part of our community participating in what could be considered an "off-limit" event. We'll be there to cheer the Diamonz float on, and hope you will do the same. We must also commend the event organizers in showing their New York City counterparts that the Lehigh Valley can set aside unfair prejudices and enjoy community events, ...Together!



MONTEREY

817 Linden Street
Allentown, PA 18101
(610) 435-4080

*A blend of
cuisines served in a
friendly, comfortable
environment*

vegetarian
friendly

B. Y. O. B.

HOW DO YOU REACH THE ON-LINE GAY & LESBIAN COMMUNITY?

Advertise on the Internet with *gāline*.

gāline (1996) *noun* 1. a comprehensive directory of gay and lesbian friendly businesses; accessible, on the Internet, at <http://www.galine.com> 2. a one-site source for advertising and information, free to the gay and lesbian community.

SAVE \$25 on a one-year ad with this page!

In addition to providing an electronic marketplace and forum for our community, we also provide: Internet connections, web page development (graphics and text), multimedia presentations (audio/visual), e-mail and the creation of custom chat rooms.

If you can envision it, we can create it!

Call 215-817-4433 to advertise today.

We're a new company...
Not new to the community!



michael j. fluck
president
p.o. box 223
hilltown, pa 18927
215-817-4433
mjon@voicenet.com

★ 5% of profits donated to AIDS & human rights organizations.



MUSIC

by C.Robert Frank

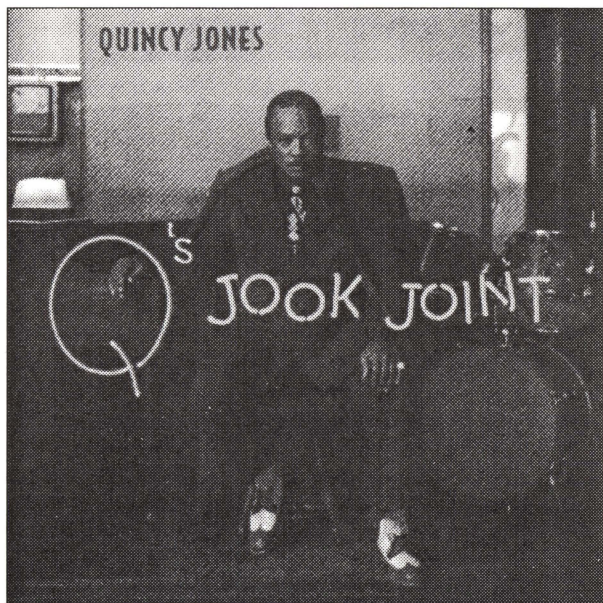
Various Artists -vs- The Masters

Title: Tapestry Revisited

Artist: Various

Rating: 2 stars

Tapestry was my sister's favorite album. I heard every song every day every month of '71. Needless to say, she has grown into a full-fledged folk-loving lesbian. Now, a quarter century later, we are offered an updated version of this classic album. Eternal opens the album with their rousing gospel-inspired interpretation of "I Feel The Earth Move." Unfortunately, that's where the fun ends. The rest of this album is simply too safe ... so what if Rod Stewart can sing "So Far Away" an Faith Hill can add a little country to "Where You Lead." Why not offer these classics to, say, Basia, or Alanis Morissette, or Hole, or even Madonna with mix by Junior Vasquez? Breathing new life is always more fun than simply dusting off.



TAPESTRY
REVISITED

TRIBUTE TO CAROLE KING

Title: Q's Jook Joint

Artist: Quincy Jones / Various

Rating: 4 stars

Quincy Jones first took us to the Jook Joint in the movie The Color Purple. Now he's opened his own and is inviting the whole world in. Get your ticket now, 'cause this is a show not to be missed. Jazz, R&B, Rap, Hip-Hop and Standards are all the rolled into one glorious jam session. While I do wish all the tracks were segued for a continuous journey, each song has the power to stand alone. They create an unforgettable time line of the history of black music and its (as well as Quincy's) influences on popular music. There is an amazing sense of unity to this album. Each of the artists offer their all as though they are praising an earthly deity, which might just be what Quincy Jones is.



Title: The Songs Of West Side Story

Artist: Various

Rating: 4 stars

New life is exactly what was given to West Side Story. While Tapestry started as a pop album, a bit too difficult to alter without hearing the original in your head (Hey, maybe that's why it's called a tribute), West Side Story began with a fully orchestrated score by the late Leonard Bernstein. The original score is truly a gem, an American classic in every sense. These new versions never mock the originals, they simply make you forget you are listening to "show tunes." Patti Austin wailing through "Cool" is nothing short of breathtaking. "America" is treated to a whole new time signature. Selena offers a haunting dance version of "A Boy Like That." All the more frightening since her life was ended by a girl like that. Little Richard has every reason to feel pretty. Get the gist?

**Make sure your ad reaches the people
who are looking for your services.**

Advertise in AboveGround

**The Lehigh Valley's only gay and lesbian
news and entertainment monthly!**

call: (610) 821-1321

DJ's TOP TEN

DJ: Cruz
Club: B-TLS / Harrisburg

1. Missing
EVERYTHING BUT THE GIRL
2. Be My Lover
LA BOUCHE
3. Did You Ever Really Love Me?
NICKI FRENCH
4. Passion Of The Night
CLUBZONE
5. Set You Free
PLANET SOUL
6. I Kissed A Girl
JILL SOUBLE
7. Fairground
SIMPLY RED
8. Every Shade Of Blue
BANANARAMA
9. Missing
NO MERCY
10. Electric Boogie
(Queen of the Night Mix)
MARCIA GRIFFITHS
(add. prod. & mrx by DJ Heidi Linn)

DJ: Casey
Club: SCARAB / Reading

1. Boriqua Anthem
C&C MUSIC FACTORY
2. I Will Survive
DIANA ROSS
3. The New Anthem
NJOI
4. Constant Craving
ABIGAIL
5. Imitation Of Life
BILLIE RAY MARTIN
6. Movin' Up
DREAMWORLD
7. Energy
DEVONE
8. Stayin' Alive
N-TRANCE
9. Got Myself Together
BUCKETHEADS
10. Mr Kirk
4 HERO

DJ: Chris Frank
Club: STONEWALL / Allentown

1. Hyper-ballad
BJORK
2. Reap What You Sow
VERNESSA MITCHELL
3. Walk
SIZE QUEEN
4. Giv Me Luv
ALCATRAZ
5. Hideaway
DELACY
6. When You Need Somebody
GLADEZZ
7. One By One
CHER
8. El Carnival
LATIN KITCHEN
9. Mystic Motion
DATURA WITH
BILLIE RAY MARTIN
10. What Are You Gonna Do?
KELLY BIENVENUE

DJ: Lis Flynn
Club: CARTWHEEL / New Hope

1. Same Thing In Reverse
BOY GEORGE
2. Movin' Up
DREAMWORLD
3. Everybody Be Somebody
RUFFNECK
4. Set Me Free
PLANET SOUL
5. I Will Survive
DIANA ROSS
6. Sitting In My Room
BRANDY
7. Be My Lover
LA BOUCHE
8. What A Sensation
KENLOU
9. The New Anthem
NJOI
10. Missing
EVERYTHING BUT THE GIRL

DJ: Josh Wunner
Club: SELECTIONS / Wilkes-Barre

1. Energy
DEVONE
2. So In Love
ELLI MAC
3. Be My Lover
LA BOUCHE
4. Live In Unity
DEEP DISH
5. Missing
EVERYTHING BUT THE GIRL
6. GAZ
ANTINA BAND
7. Fingers And Thumbs
ERASURE
8. Set Me Free
MUSA
9. The New Anthem
NJOI
10. Ain't Nobody
DIANA KING

VIDEO

VJ: Michael Leidy
Club: STONEWALL / Allentown

1. If I Were You (rmx)
K.D. LANG
2. I Believe
HAPPY CLAPPERS
3. Superstar
CAROL JIAN
4. Let There Be Light (rmx)
MIKE OLDFIELD
5. Technocat
TECHNOCAT
Featuring Tim Wilson
6. Fingers And Thumbs
ERASURE
7. Beautiful Life
(Vission Lorimer mix)
ACE OF BASE
8. Be My Lover (9 spike mix)
LA BOUCE
9. Happiness
PIZZA MAN
10. To Deserve You
BETTE MIDLER

Theatre

& Performing Arts

Playing This Month

Albright College
FLORILEGIUM
Monday, March 11
SUMI TONOOKA TRIO
Thursday, March 28
For info call: 610-921-7547

Allentown College
ALLENTOWN COLLEGE DANCE
ENSEMBLE
March 15 - 17

Allentown Symphony Hall
PA SINFONIA ORCHESTRA
Saturday, March 9
ALLENTOWN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Sunday, March 17
For info call: 610-432-7961

Lafayette College
MERIDIAN ARTS ENSEMBLE
Tuesday, March 5
SANFORD SYLVAN
Wednesday, March 20
JACOB'S ROOM
March 26 & 27
WASHINGTON BALLET
Saturday, March 30
For info call: 610-250-5009

Moravian College
THE AMERICAN QUARTET
Friday, March 8
THE LION, THE WITCH
& THE WARDROBE
March 8 - 10
For info call: 610-865-9188

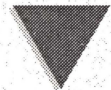
Muhlenberg College
CLOUD NINE
March 27 - 31
For info call: 610-821-3333

Pennsylvania Playhouse
JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR
March 15-31
For info call: 610-865-6665

State Theatre
JAMES GALWAY
Thursday, March 7
PETER NERO & THE
BOSTON POPS
Friday, March 22
B.B. KING
Wednesday, March 27
BEIJING ACROBATS
Friday, March 9
For Info call: 610-252-3132

Theatre Outlet
TRAP DOOR - March 4
ST. PATRICK'S DAY CEILI - March 11
MONSTER HOOLIE - March 18
CHAMBER MUSIC - March 25
THE BIG BOOK OF LIES - April 1
For info call: 610-820-9270

Touchstone Theatre
NIGHTINGALE
March 8 - 10
BOTÁNICA
March 21 - 23
For info call: 610-867-1689



JAMES M. FILLMAN, M.A.
Counseling and Psychotherapy
(215) 428-0670

1400 New Rodgers Road
Suite 108
Levittown, PA 19055

855 W. Main St.
Lansdale, PA 19446

DEEP MUSCLE MASSAGE

Shiatsu - Reiki

Certified Massage Therapist
by appointment evenings & weekends

Call Gary
(610) 694-8756
leave message

Robert Nelson St. Mary, Jr. 1958 - 1996

Thursday, February 15 the Valley lost a longtime friend and family member. Robert Nelson St. Mary, Jr., know to most as Rob or Robin, was well known throughout our community as well as in areas outside the Lehigh Valley. In addition to his many other talents, Robin was an accomplished dancer. He is often remembered for his distinctive presence on the Stonewall dance floor through the disco years of the seventies and early eighties. Equally memorable were his performances as "Merna Louise" at area clubs, social events and picnics. When one hears "The Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy From Company B," Rob's vigorous performances are often the first thing that comes to mind.

Numerous friends and family members bid Robin farewell at a service held in Allentown on Tuesday, February 20. He leaves behind with us fond memories of days gone by, made more cherished by the addition of his charm, exuberance and wit.

GIRLS NITE OUT!

Every
Tuesday

- NO COVER CHARGE
- The area's only Ladies Night.
- DJ spinning the music you love
...from oldies to today's current hits.
- Start out with dinner at Cafe Mo and
get a complimentary drink when you
enter the bar.

Come out and
Dance, Shoot Pool,
Relax with your honey
or
meet her here!



Mondays
Drag Search
with Monica Rey

Wednesdays
Hot Male Strippers
(March 6 & 20)
Tinsel Garland
(March 13 & 27)

Thursdays
Classic
Disco

Fridays
Michael Ferreri

Saturdays & Sundays
Elaine Paxson
with Christian Daizey

It's all happening at...

CARTWHEEL

of course! -

ROUTE 202

NEW HOPE PA

215-862-0880



Ask AUNT BESS

Dear Aunt Bess,

I have a major concern that you might be able to help in solving. Approx. a year ago I was leaving one of the local drinking establishments, and I was pulled over for driving too slow (rain). The outcome was I got a DUI summons. My B.A.C. was .11 so I was legally drunk. My question is why was I continually served at the bar? It seems to me the bars are in it for the almighty dollar, and to hell with the patrons. I still go out, but am unable to drive, and I have taken notice that the bartenders DO NOT tend to cut off anyone. They just keep right on taking their money no matter how drunk that person is. I will say for Candida's her bartenders will flag someone and offer them a soda. I have yet to see Diamondz or The Stonewall do this. Also I have noticed that there is very little communication between an upstairs bar and a downstairs bar. This is the 90's the bars are just as responsible as are their patrons. Don't the bars realize that it only takes someone 4-5 drinks in an hour or so to put them over the legal limit? Aunt Bess you know as well as I do drinking a "few" beers and a "couple" of shots in one hour is not hard especially if you are sitting with friends who are all shot drinkers and round buyers!!!!

I did ask one of the bar managers about this problem and the response was "Well, you should know when to quit." [. . .] I bet if you ask around everyone knows at least one person who has received a DUI. Aunt Bess what can be done about this ongoing problem? The bars have to start watching how much they serve people, and a response of "we can't watch everyone because it is so crowded" just doesn't hack it any longer. Also it is kind of hard to have a designated driver if you are going out by yourself. Also if you do order a soda or one of the original bottled water you can get an attitude from the bartender. Try it yourself. Thanks for any light you can shed on this problem.

Signed, Taking Responsibility

Dear T.R.,

I will do my best to shed some light on what I have taken from your letter, but you better be wearing shades ... the flash may just blind you!

I am, as are many of my friends, no stranger to the letters DUI. I would like to think that in my case the letters stand for Dearest Unbiased Inspiration, but yes, they do in fact stand for Driving Under the Influence. The thought of your dear old Aunt Bess standing next to

her Model T trying to touch her nose with outstretched arms may seem hard to imagine, but as the judge at the hearing stated, "This is the one crime that knows no prejudice, it affects persons of all ages, genders, religious convictions and ethnic backgrounds." In addition to drawing from my personal experiences, I spoke with friends from both sides of the bar in order to render what I think is a fair and true evaluation of your statements. Fasten your seat-belt, it's about to get bumpy!

You signed your letter "Taking Responsibility," but in reading it I can't clearly determine just how you have. It should have been more appropriately signed, "Finding a Scapegoat." Now the last thing that Aunt Bess wants to do is hurt the feelings of one of her readers, but as it's said, "the truth shall set you free." Adults in this country, at least those over the age of 21, have the right to purchase and consume alcoholic beverages. You will note that the key word in that last sentence was ADULT. Somehow your letter gives me the impression that you would have the bar treat you more as a child. I am not inferring that there are not cases in which the bartender should intercede, I am only saying that a responsible adult knows his/her limits and acts accordingly using them as a guide. There are often cases where a bartender must intercede, but it has been my personal observation that, at the three establishments you mentioned, they do "Flag" persons who have over-indulged quite frequently. In response to your statement of lack of communication between bartenders, I just recently overheard a person trying to get a drink at one of these establishments and the bartender commented, "I'm sorry the bartender upstairs has cut you off for the evening." In reference to your statement that a bartender will give you attitude for ordering soda or bottled water, I must say that I, and everyone I asked, found this to be totally untrue. It is actually a fact that most bars happily sell more soda and bottled water than ever before. This is due entirely to adults who take responsibility for their own actions.

It is the responsibility of the bar to stop service to a person who is "Visibly Intoxicated." This term, however, often has nothing to do with the term "Legally Intoxicated." A BAC of .10 or above is considered "Legally Intoxicated," but the court can get a guilty ruling for D.U.I. with levels as low as .05BAC. For a bartender to really monitor a person's "Legal" intoxication, they would have to use a breathalyzer on every person, before every drink, and that would only be after letting them wait long enough for anything previously ingested to reach the bloodstream. This, of course, is a totally ridiculous thought, but not much more than your feelings about where the bars' responsibilities begin and end. The truth of the matter is, as happened in my case, that the bartender can often be totally unaware of how much a person has had to drink before they've seen them, and that although the person may seem totally sober, they may in fact be "Legally Intoxicated" already. The only difference I can see between what happened to you and what happened to me (and many others) is that you don't want to take responsibility for your actions as an adult. If someone forcibly poured each of those drinks past your lips, however, I do stand corrected.

Just as Dear Aunt Bess has had to learn herself, it is necessary for each of us to fully understand the way that alcohol consumption af-

fects our body, and if we have gone over the "Legal" limit, we should not be operating motor vehicles. As you stated, there is not always going to be a situation where a designated driver is available, but there are things called taxicabs, you know. The Lehigh Valley may be cursed with a less than adequate cab company, but they will arrive, eventually. The cost may seem high and the wait may be long, but not when compared to the psychological, physical, and monetary costs or the seemingly eternal jail-cell "visit" caused by driving under the influence.

Well T.R., if you've managed to stick with me without tearing the page apart, here are my final thoughts. I am not about to defend every single action taken in every instance by every bartender in the Lehigh Valley, but the ultimate responsibility lies with each adult who enters a drinking establishment. We must all act as responsible adults within the guidelines of the law; when we do not, we must take the consequences of our actions. It is unfortunate that you had to endure the inconvenience, embarrassment and financial strain of a "DUI", but you are truly fortunate that you had the opportunity to learn a lesson without having lost your life or taken another. If you are able to realize your own responsibility for what happened to you, you will soon see it as a positive learning experience and not a bitter memory.



ROB-WIN press, inc.

ROB-WIN PRESS

IS A

FULL-SERVICE PRINTER

SPECIALIZING IN

FOIL STAMPING

EMBOSSING, AND

FOUR-COLOR PRINTING

(610) 776-1691 • FAX (610) 776-1433
691 N. TRUMP ST., ALLENTOWN, PA 18103

There's Something Queer about Tuesday!



It's Gay & Lesbian ROLLER-SKATING!

with
Music by DJ Chris Frank

Bring your own skates and rollerblades
or use a rental pair at no additional cost!

Tuesday, March 26

**Skateaway Roller Rink
4500 William Penn Highway
Bethlehem, PA**

**7:30pm - 10:30pm
\$5.00**



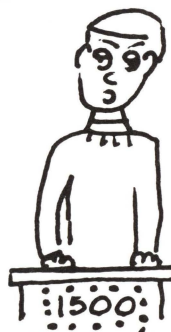
a benefit for
LEAGUE OF GAY AND LESBIAN VOTERS
LEHIGH VALLEY CHAPTER • (610) 432-5449

COBALT BLUE DESIGN • (610) 821-1321

THE DRAG QUEENS

LOOKS LIKE DRAG QUEEN
MARCIE IS BACK IN THE
GAME!

I'LL TAKE TYPE OF GUESTS
MOST LIKELY TO APPEAR
ON TALK SHOWS
FOR 500!



9. Fallor '96



Jacqueline
Marish, M.A.

Counseling



Recovery

A.C.O.A.

Spiritual

Assertiveness

Feminist Issues

1322 Center Street
Bethlehem, PA 18018
610.865.1006

Complimentary Issue Outlets

ALLENTOWN

Candida

247 N. 10th St.

Grace Covenant Fellowship

247 N. 10th St.

MCC/Lehigh Valley

@St. John's UCC
6th & Walnut Sts.
(Sun.Eves. only)

Open Space Gallery

913 Hamilton Mall

Seattle Espresso

722 Hamilton Mall

Stonewall /

Moose Lounge

28-30 N. 10th St.

BETHLEHEM

Diamonz

1913 W. Broad St.

EASTON

Hare Art Studio

241 Northampton St.
2nd Fl.

EMMAUS

The Book Rack

705 Chestnut St.

HARRISBURG

B-TLS

891 Eisenhower Blvd.

Stallions

706 N. 3rd Street

NEW HOPE

The Book Gallery

Mechanic Street

Blue Ribbon Gallery

78 Ney Alley

The Cartwheel

Route 202

The Raven

385 West Bride St.

PHILADELPHIA

Giovannni's Room

345 s. 12th St.

READING

The Scarab

724 Franklin St.

WHITEHALL

Barnes & Noble Bookstore

2590 MacArthur Rd.

WILKES-BARRE

Babes'

1267 Main St.
(Port Griffith-Pittston)

Selections

45 Public Square
Wilkes-Barre Center

DIAMONZ

Diamonz celebrates

St. Patrick's Day

Sunday, March 17

1st...

Join the Diamonz
"Luck of the Irish Float"
in the Allentown
St. Patrick's Day Parade
then...

Party over to Diamonz
for the St. Patrick's Day
Bash of the Century
Food ~ Giveaways ~ Music
& Much More!

NEW AT DIAMONZ

Wednesdays

PASTA & MOVIE NIGHT

Enjoy dinner & a movie
for under \$5.00

Thursdays

CLAMS ARE BACK!!

You can also order pizza
with all the favorite toppings!

Fridays

15¢ WING NIGHT

Hot - Barbecue - Honey

1913 W. BROAD ST. ▼ BETHLEHEM, PA ▼ 610-865-1028

Rebirth from the Fire

by Rev. Bob Forté

Phoenix Ministries is a local independent outreach ministry that is the materialization of a wonderful vision. A vision filled with hope and unconditional love. I recently talked with its founder, The Rev. Dr. Joël S. Diehl. Our interview follows.

"Why the Phoenix? What does it mean?"

"The Phoenix is an ancient bird-god of not only Native Americans, but many ancient cultures as well. The legend tells that the bird threw itself into a volcano as a sacrifice to the great Thunderbird. The Thunderbird spirit was so touched by the bird's willingness to give of itself so that the native people could be in peace, it resurrected the bird into the Phoenix. The phoenix is the symbol of rebirth through the fire of self-sacrifice."

"Describe your ministry and its tie to the Phoenix."

"I believe that only through self-sacrifice can we achieve ultimate spirituality. The alcoholic must sacrifice the alcohol to be free. The drug addict must sacrifice the drug to be free. The list goes on. Through this sacrifice we learn that what we think we need is not at all what we need. When we are addicted to something, whether it be

a chemical or a person, we are in denial of ourselves. My ministry helps people to deny the addiction and accept themselves. I am sure that you have heard of the term, 'If you can't love yourself, you can't love anything.' Self-love is not love or vanity. It is simple and universal. I have learned this lesson through the events of my own life. I feel that my ministry has become a success due to my strong respect for human life and dignity. I believe that we are truly brothers and sisters. I strive not only to be a good minister, but a good friend as well."

"How does one achieve this goal of Self-love and Acceptance?"

"It is all a very personal trek. Based on Metaphysiology and Theology. It is based on Christian philosophies along with the philosophies of Eastern and Native American Cultures."

"What is your educational background?"

"I attended Allentown College St. Francis de Sales, The Edgar Cayce Institute, the Ken Keys Institute of Higher Consciousness, the University of Miami, Moravian College and the Universal Life University through UCLA. I have a Bachelors degree in Psychology, a Masters in Philosophy, a Doctorate in Divinity, and a Doctorate in Metaphysiology. I am not simply book learned. My education and ministry is full of life experiences as well."

Rev. Diehl also noted that he offers full ministerial services; weddings, baptisms, funerals, etc. He added that he is non-denominational. If you would like more information about Phoenix Ministries, please contact Rev. Diehl at 610-433-5325.

Horrorscoops

by Evil Esther



AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb.18

Don't be so rigid. Flexibility is the tool you will need to stay on top. Express yourself, but be sure to listen to what others are saying to you. Cancer native dominates.



PISCES
Feb.19-March 20

Slow start this month. Ideas submitted by others should be considered. Opportunities should be recognized. Third party should be given a chance. Wear bright colors.



ARIES
March 21-April 19

Look Out!! Trouble manifests itself in the most unlikely place. Keep your head on your shoulders and don't trust Anyone this month. Focus on work and watch your back.



TAURUS
April 20-May 20

Where are you? Old friend trying desperately to reach you through unconventional means. You don't want to miss this! Capricorn native is the culprit.



GEMINI
May 21-June 20

Do you know what you want? The clock is ticking, someone is waiting on you. Be aggressive, it may be your only hope. Stop sitting on the fence, it isn't comfortable, is it?



CANCER
June 21-July 22

Your heart melts with the snow this month. Someone has been 'missing' you, but their aim is getting better. Romance beckons, it's up to you. Focus on home.



LEO
July 23-Aug.22

Too many pots on the stove, you can't possibly watch them all, one is likely to boil over and ruin the whole feast. Ordering out is NOT an option. Fast-food might be good this month.



VIRGO
Aug.23-Sept.22

State your intent clearly this month. Uncross the wires of communication. Aggressive behavior will get you nowhere. Don't lose yourself in material concerns.



LIBRA
Sept.23-Oct.22

Spring clean your "friends". Needy people are weighing you down. Try to be open about what you are feeling. You will thank me later! Don't cut yourself off from life.



SCORPIO
Oct.23-Nov.21

Learn to give up in order to get. Indulge the philanthropist nature within. Those less fortunate will thank you in unexpected ways. Crossroads ahead, choose carefully.



SAGITTARIUS
Nov.22-Dec.21

Don't let guilt get the better of you. Learn to distinguish between what is false and what is real. Watch your temper, winning isn't everything. Trust your intuition.



CAPRICORN
Dec.22-Jan.19

Flowers will bloom soon, pick the one that is most fragrant. Just remember, it's beauty is only temporary. Enjoy it while it lasts. Plant two in it's place.

***Horrorscoops are published for entertainment purposes only. Anyone running their life based on them is obviously in need of good therapy! Life is short. Have a little Fun!!**

Community Resources

Bars / Clubs

ALLENTOWN

Candida
247 N. 12th St.
610-434-3071

Stonewall & Moose Lounge
28-30 N. 10th St.
610-432-0215

BETHLEHEM

Diamondz
1913 W. Broad St.
610-865-1028

HARRISBURG

B-TLS
891 Eisenhower Blvd.
717-939-1123

Neptune Lounge
268 North St.
717-233-3078

Stallions
706 N. 3rd St.
717-232-3060

NEW HOPE

Cartwheel
Route 202
215-862-0880

Raven
385 W. Bridge St.
215-862-2081

READING

Scarab
724 Franklin St.
610-375-7878

WILKES-BARRE

AREA Babes'
1267 Main St.
Port Griffith-Pittston
717-883-7877

Selections
45 Public Square
717-829-4444

AIDS Related Organizations

AIDS Outreach
112 N. 5th St.
Allentown, PA 18102
610-435-8424

AIDS Services Center
60 W. Broad St.
Suite 205
Bethlehem, PA 18108
610-974-8701

Allentown Health Bureau -HIV testing
245 N. 6th St.
Allentown, PA 18102
(contact David Moyer)
610-437-7742

FACT
P.O. Box 1028
Allentown, PA 18105
610-820-5519

FACT Bucks County
P.O. Box 616
Buckingham, PA 18912

Latino AIDS Outreach
610-861-6845

Wyoming Valley AIDS Council
P.O. Box 2677
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703
717-823-5808

Religious Affiliations

Grace Covenant Fellowship
247 N. 10th St.
Allentown, PA 18102
610-740-0247

Hope Ministries
Rev. Bob J. Forté
610-791-0716
24 hrs.-leave message.

Religious Affiliations (cont.)

Integrity
610-395-1785
610-758-8642

MCC of the Lehigh Valley
Unitarian Universalist Church
424 Center St.
Bethlehem, PA
610-439-8755

Phoenix Ministries, ULC Inc.
Rev. Joël S. Diehl, DD, MsD.
610-433-5325 leave message

Community/Social/Support Organizations

Berks Gay & Lesbian Alliance
P.O. Box 417
Reading, PA 19603-0417
610-373-0674

Gay Men of the Lehigh Valley
Bethlehem, PA
610-439-8755

GLORA
Gays & Lesbians Of
Reading & Allentown
P.O. Box 1952
Allentown, PA 18105

League of Gay & Lesbian Voters
Lehigh Valley Chapter
P.O. Box 20781
Lehigh Valley, PA
18002-0781
610-432-5449

Community/Social/Support Organizations (cont.)

Lehigh Valley Gay & Lesbian Task Force
P.O. Box 20253
Lehigh Valley, PA 18002
610-515-1551

Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus
P.O. Box 20712
Lehigh Valley, PA 18002
610-740-0247
610-231-0578

Lehigh Valley Lesbians
Bethlehem, PA
610-253-5454

North Eastern Pennsylvania TransGender Assoc.
P.O. Box 3694
Easton, PA
18043-3694
610-559-1784

P-Flag
215-368-2473
215-234-4049

PRIDE of the Lehigh Valley
P.O. Box 20804
Lehigh Valley, PA 18002
610-770-6200

Renaissance Education Assoc., Inc
P.O. Box 2122
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2122
717-780-1578

Velvet Spikers
volleyball-tennis
P.O. Box 21862
Lehigh Valley, PA
18002-1862
610-434-2966

If your organization would like to be listed in AboveGround Magazine, Call (610)821-1321 or write P.O. Box 1656 Allentown, PA 18105-1656

Your Source for News & Views in and around the Lehigh Valley

[illegible]

Anything submitted to AboveGround must be received by the 15th of the month to be published in the following months issue. Anything received after that date will be held over to the next issue.

Phone(optional)_____ **If you would like a full-issue-copy of your ad, include \$1.50 for P&H

1-4	lines	\$ 5.00
5-10	lines	\$10.00
11-15	lines	\$15.00

PO Box 1656
Allentown, PA 18105-1656

AboveGround reserves the right to edit ads as needed or to refuse any ad for any reason. You must be 18 or older to place or respond to any ad.

SAVE \$7

PHONE (optional):

P.O. Box 1656 Allentown, PA 18105-1656

Allentown, PA 18105-1656

MALE FRIENDS

Lucky to be Healthy / Gay / 52 / Employed. But unlucky to find area Similar / Younger / Spry / GWM for Sincere / True Friendship. Call and learn more about me: A Down-to-Earth GWM who avoids Freeloaders / Bars / Drugs / Fats / Games. Enjoy simple life / Country / Videos / Music / Walks / Romantic, Quiet Times / ++.

610-867-4707 (Bethlehem)

ROOMMATES

Professional Roommate
Historic Home to Share
in Allentown.
Parking & Utilities Included.
\$350.00 with security deposit.
Call: 433-7889

MODELS

MATTHIAS -PORN MODEL
Pics-\$10, Video-\$20,
Other items Avail. upon requests.
Photo-strip sessions Avail.
Write w/Check or Money Order to:
MATTHIAS, P.O. Box 6615
Wyomissing, PA 19610

FOR SALE

Dance away the Winter Blues!!
Dance Tapes for All Parties!
Over 20 tapes to choose...
...From Classic Disco to House.
Call: DJ CHRIS
For catalog
610-435-9383

Cars for Sale!!
Great classics will get you
noticed as you motor around town!
Affordable Class!!
Call: 610-432-2704
or 610-791-8449

GROUPS

Gay Artist's Weekly Discussion
Group Now Forming in Easton.
Call: 610-515-0757

SERVICES

SINGLE? Looking? Where Can
You Go To Find Other Active
Singles Who Are Passionate
About The Outdoors & Nature?
Try Your Mailbox!
JOIN US. Free Info. Nationwide.
NATURAL CONNECTIONS.
800-474-3100
Box 900ag Pomona NY 10970

REAL ESTATE - RENT

Gay Rentals Available
House or Apt. Short or long-term
Lease. Let's Talk!
Call: 610-432-2704
or 610-791-8449

REAL ESTATE - SALE

Old Allentown Opens It's Doors!
You've seen all the rainbow flags.
Half of your friends already live
here. Most of your entertainment
hours are spent here. NOW, come
see what old Allentown has to offer
YOU. Sunday, March 24, 12-5pm is
the Spring Old Allentown District-
Wide Open House. Gail Hoover,
Patt-White Co. & Old Allentown
Preservation Association are
working hard to make this the
districts one stop real estate
shopping extravaganza. A majority
of the properties available for
purchase will be open for your
inspection. Various lenders,
inspection, insurance & title
companies will be on hand to
answer any & all questions. For
Open House Details or if you live
within Old Allentown and would like
to include your property, call Gail
Hoover @ 433-7919.

DOWNTOWN WILKES-BARRE

SELECTIONS



Open Monday thru Saturday 7:00pm to 2:00am

#1 DANCE CLUB IN N.E. PENNSYLVANIA

- Superior BOSE Sound System
- Best JBL Video System
- Spectacular MARTIN Computerized Lighting & Lasers
- Hot House Dancers

Special Nightly Events - Call For information

Local Hotel with Pool and SELECTIONS Discount
Directly Behind our 700 Space Free Parking Lots!

**IF HE'S NOT AT SELECTIONS...
HE'S DEFINITELY OUT OF TOWN!**

(717) 829-4444



AMERICAN HAIRLINES

882-9848